

(Corps) main missions. However, this authorization bill makes promises to local communities that the Congress does not have a track record of keeping. The House of Representatives took a \$15 billion bill into negotiations with a \$14 billion bill from the Senate and instead of splitting the difference, emerged with a Washington compromise that costs over \$23 billion. This is not fiscally responsible, particularly when local communities have been waiting for funding for projects already in the pipeline. The bill's excessive authorization for over 900 projects and programs exacerbates the massive backlog of ongoing Corps construction projects, which will require an additional \$38 billion in future appropriations to complete.

This bill does not set priorities. The authorization and funding of Federal water resources projects should be focused on those projects with the greatest merit that are also a Federal responsibility. My Administration has repeatedly urged the Congress to authorize only those projects and programs that provide a high return on investment and are within the three main missions of the Corps' civil works program: facilitating commercial navigation, reducing the risk of damage from floods and storms, and restoring aquatic ecosystems. This bill does not achieve that goal. This bill promises hundreds of earmarks and hinders the Corps' ability to fulfill the Nation's critical water resources needs—including hurricane protection for greater New Orleans, flood damage reduction for Sacramento, and restoration of the Everglades—while diverting resources from the significant investments needed to maintain existing Federal water infrastructure. American taxpayers should not be asked to support a pork-barrel system of Federal authorization and funding where a project's merit is an afterthought.

I urge the Congress to send me a fiscally responsible bill that sets priorities. Americans sent us to Washington to achieve results and be good stewards of their hard-earned taxpayer dollars. This bill violates that funda-

mental commitment. For the reasons outlined above, I must veto H.R. 1495.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 2, 2007.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 27

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

October 29

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Philadelphia, PA, where, upon arrival in the afternoon, he met with Lew Bennett III.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Bryn Mawr, PA, where, at a private residence, he attended a Pennsylvania Victory 2008 reception. Later, he traveled to Cincinnati, OH, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteers Sharon and L.C. Nolan. Then, at a private residence, he attended a Chabot-Ohio Victory Committee reception.

In the evening, at the Montgomery Inn Boathouse, the President dropped by a birthday party for Baseball Hall of Famer Johnny Bench. He then returned to Washington, DC.

October 30

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had separate telephone conversations with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and President-elect Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner of Argentina.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey to the White House on November 5.

The President announced his intention to nominate Carl T. Johnson to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration at the Department of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lt. Gen. James B. Peake, USA (Ret.), to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jody L. Williams as a member of the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission.

October 31

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, the President participated in a meeting on the National Strategy for Information Sharing. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a bill signing ceremony for H.R. 3678, the Internet Tax Freedom Act Amendments Act of 2007, which was assigned Public Law No. 110–108.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ed Schafer to be Secretary of Agriculture.

November 1

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President participated in a photo opportunity with the 2007 Little League World Series champion Warner Robins, Georgia, Little League team. Later, on the North Portico, he participated in a photo opportunity with recipients of the 2006 Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers.

In the evening, at a private residence, the President attended a Republican National Committee regents dinner.

November 2

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Columbia, SC, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Graham Van Schaik. He then met with Lt. Andrew Kinard, USMC, who was wounded in Iraq on October 29, 2006.

Later in the morning, at a private residence, the President attended a Graham Victory 2008 reception.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Fort Jackson, SC, where, upon arrival, he greeted U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School students. He then visited the Fit To Win course. Later, he traveled to Camp David, MD, arriving in the evening.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted November 1

Carl T. Johnson, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, vice Thomas J. Barrett.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released October 29

Announcement of the Presidential Medal of Freedom recipients

Released October 30

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister Erdogan of Turkey to Washington

Fact sheet: Lt. Gen. James B. Peake (Ret.), M.D.: The Best Choice for Our Nation's Veterans